



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

February 2016



MANY HANDS JOIN TO MAKE A WONDERFUL PARTY

by Helen Parsons

What I saw at our Christmas party on December 19 for 250-plus children was a foundation of goodness! So many of you made this day a happy memory, not only for our neediest children but for their parents as well! You put smiles on their faces, joy in their hearts, and the means to a merrier Christmas. You provided wrapped gifts, filled stockings, new socks, stuffed animals, and gift cards for each family!

Heartfelt thanks to **Girlfriends Care** for filling the stockings; our Auxiliary and community volunteers for serving, donating, and wrapping hundreds of gifts; our extraordinary **TVIA** (Teen Volunteers In Action) for making our warehouse a winter wonderland, complete with a working fireplace, and for wrapping, serving, and cleaning; the staff at **Legoland** for two barrels of donated toys; the **Soroptimist** and **Civitan** organizations for their generosity; our own Center and Thrift Shop volunteers and employees; **Linda's Gift Shop** in Carlsbad; my neighbors and friends in Carlsbad; **Sue Stewart** for collecting toys at her place of business; **Souplantation** for coupons; **Barbara Troupe** for knitting many hats for our children (they LOVED them); **Jan Rumble** for face painting; **Sonya and her son** for balloon art; and many, many other donors!!

Our Santa, **Doug**, has such a tender heart. The children loved him! And **C. C. Sanders** entertained us with his velvet voice singing Christmas carols. A mother and her children delivered 5,000 homemade, decorated, and bagged cookies! An amazing treat for all who came on Christmas Day!

My team helpers, **Vikki Ramey** and **Michelle Hoppe**, made all this happen!

May we all continue to share our time, talents, and love with all our hearts, and continue building brighter tomorrows!

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Santa and kids



Vikki Ramey, Helen Parsons & Michelle Hoppe



Gerri Slaughter & Santa

EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

A Beautiful Christmas. Santa is so accommodating. Every year, he stops at the Brother Benno Center several days before Christmas so our Guests can have a great meal together, enjoy the music and activities, and go home with gifts that would otherwise not be available to them.

Christmas 2015 included entertainment by a Recorder Quartet from the Prince of Peace Abbey, consisting of **Father Paul, Dennis Pinnick, Brother Blaise, and Leigh Taylor. Jacqueline King**—who sometimes sings—was there, too, because “I also do everything else that needs doing.”

Deacon Jun from St. Mary's in Oceanside was on hand as he is on most Saturdays, in case any of our Guests feel the need to talk to someone about a problem.

In the Children's Reading Room, volunteer **Sue Sidell** was helping kids decorate ornaments. When I walked in, there were three little boys hard at work, soon to be followed by a couple bigger boys and a tiny girl who had no problem deciding what color ornament she wanted, and how she wanted to decorate it.

The warehouse, decorated by many creative volunteers, was bustling with adults and children. Santa handed out new socks, a woman painted “tattoos” on lots of arms, and kids were wide-eyed with the opportunity to choose a stuffed toy and a hand-knit cap from huge arrays. There were balloon animals, stockings full of toys and candy, and the great music of **C. C. Sanders**.

As **Helen Parsons** said in an article on page 1, none of this would have been possible without the help of our many volunteers, supporters, and donors. God bless you, one and all!

Making a Home. Shortly before Christmas, a young woman and her year-old son came to Brother Benno's for help. She said she was eight months sober and had just been able to move into an apartment but had no furniture. Her mother had brought her to the Center, and we learned that she was very instrumental in helping her daughter get her life back on track.

“I could just feel the closeness of the three of them,” said **Gwen Acheson**, who is in charge of our Furniture Warehouse at the Center. By the time they were ready to leave, they had picked out a couch, a dining table with four chairs, two smaller tables, and a lamp. Both women were crying, Gwen said, because they were so thankful for this unexpected windfall.

Thanks to the many donations we receive, Brother Benno's was able to give this furniture to the young mother and son. “We even delivered everything to the apartment,” Gwen said.

A few weeks later, a thank-you card arrived at the Center with a handwritten note: “To Brother Benno's and Gwen and the movers. Thank you for making an empty apartment a **home** for me and my son.” Also enclosed were several pictures of the furniture, and one of the smiling little boy sitting on the floor in front of the couch.

Giving Party. For the past three Christmas seasons, **Dolly** and **Joseph Goulart** and their children **Parker** (11) and **Ella Mae** (8) have spearheaded a “giving activity” for their neighbors and friends. They invite 30-40 parents and children to a barbecue and movie in their back yard, and the price of admission is an item that can be donated to Brother Benno's. The first year it was children's books; the second year, blankets.



“We collected five or six boxes of books, and a trunk-load of blankets,” Dolly said.

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This past year the Goulart family was sick at Christmastime, so instead of hosting the back-yard gathering, they used the money they would have spent on food and bought socks at Costco instead.

I asked Dolly how their children have reacted to these giving opportunities. She said Parker cried when she brought them to the Center and he saw all the children in line for food. And one day when the family was at the beach, they saw a homeless man with sores on his face. They remembered they had a first-aid kit in their car with a tube of ointment in it, so they retrieved it, then decided just to give the whole kit to the man. When they left, Ella Mae said, "He needs it more than we do."

Cookie Ministry is a service project started four years ago by a group of women and their children for the children in North County, according to **Joy Highley** who spearheads the project. "It isn't Christmas unless we take part in this holiday tradition," she said.

When she learns the drop-off date at Brother Benno's—usually the Saturday of the family Christmas Party at the Center—all the kitchens of the participants become "cookie factories." This year, in one week, they made 5,000 cookies!

"Cookies are put into stickered baggies with a ribbon and Scripture verse tied to it," Joy said. "The kids help baking, putting stickers on the bags, and cutting ribbons and Scripture verses."

The original crew that bakes cookies every year and keeps the ministry going are **Joy Highley, Yvonne Hamquist, Janette McClintock, Melissa Garza-Vasant, Lisa Senkbeil, Dulce Gangani, Mary Hansen, Jennifer Bjordahl, Patty Billingsly and their children.** Added this year were **Darlene Yim, Melissa Ramsey, Julie Morris, Patti Sego, Patti Norman, Jayne Monahan, and their children.**

"It has become our yearly mission that we share with our kids," Joy said, "and we hope they will continue with *their* and kids and friends."

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Leaving a Legacy to Continue the Work Of Brother Benno's

Planned Giving is a generic term that covers the many ways an individual or couple can give to a charity while, in many cases, avoiding taxes. A few examples of planned giving are Wills, Living Trusts, Designated Beneficiary Accounts, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds and Real Estate.

Charitable Giving to Brother Benno's is one way of helping us raise the resources necessary to continue our service to the poor and also help plan for our future needs. Gifts of this nature are very beneficial and much appreciated by Brother Benno's.

For more information please contact: Frank Doherty at 760 439-1244, ext 120, or 760 804-1948, email dohertyfe@aol.com.

Mother Teresa, Her Essential Wisdom

"To smile at someone who is sad; to visit, even for a little while, someone who is lonely; to give someone shelter from the rain with our umbrella; to read something for someone who is blind; these and others can be small things, very small things, but they are appropriate to give our love of God concrete expression to the poor."

"Sometimes people can hunger for more than bread. It is possible that our children, our husband, our wife, do not hunger for bread, do not need clothes, do not lack a house. But are we equally sure that none of them feels alone, abandoned, neglected, needing some affection? That, too, is poverty."

"I cannot forget my mother. She was usually very busy all day long. But when sunset drew near, it was her custom to hurry with her tasks in order to be ready to receive my father. At the time we did not understand, and we would smile and even joke a little about it. Today I cannot help but call to mind the great delicacy of love that she had for him. No matter what happened, she was always prepared, with a smile on her lips, to welcome him."

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AUXILIARY NEWS

by Carol Sanford

Due to popular demand, we are returning to Shadowridge Country Club (1980 Gateway Drive in Vista) for our **Annual Membership Drive**. It is being held on Wednesday, February 24, from 10 to noon, as a Brunch this year. Spearheading this event is our Vice-President **Nita Rodriguez**, who came well prepared for her job as Membership Chair when she was elected in November!

We all know that active volunteers are what make our Auxiliary work, and we also know there are others out there who just need to know what Brother Benno's does for our community, and they WILL join us! So, talk to your friends and neighbors and bring them with you to this Brunch for a festive way to start the New Year by doing some good!

Send \$20 for each person, checks payable to Brother Benno's Auxiliary, to Nita Rodriguez, 2399 Jefferson St., #23, Carlsbad, CA 92008, to reserve your places. Questions? Call her at 760-994-0355.

And if you haven't already sent in your annual dues of \$10 a year, or \$150 for a lifetime with us, send a separate check to Nita as well, to make sure that you are included in the 2016 Members Directory, which will be printed soon. It just might contain photos of each of us this year!?? We'll finally put faces to names? Really?

While you're at your calendar, circle Saturday, March 26, for our annual **Applebee's Fundraiser**, which is always fun for those who eat and also for those of us who serve those de-

licious edibles to all our supportive guests. Only \$10 per person for a full breakfast!


Please Note: The Membership Brunch will take the place of our usual monthly meeting for February. The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, March 23, at 1 p.m. social time, 1:30 meeting with a guest speaker.


I hope to see you at EACH of these events! Let's make this, the Brother Benno Auxiliary's 20th year, a memorable one for attendance.

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Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:

 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)

 [Twitter.com/BrotherBennos](https://twitter.com/BrotherBennos)

Your donation enables us to do all the wonderful things we do

My enclosed tax-deductible gift is: \$ _____
(make payable to: Brother Benno Foundation)
In memory of: _____

Please send a card to:

(name) _____
(address) _____

For a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.)
: _____

Send a card to: (name) _____
(address) _____

Or, donate online at <http://brotherbenno.org>

Soup...Soap...Hugs...Hope:
The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen

This book is offered as a gift to donors who contribute whatever their budget allows...The important thing... is that you have one...

Name _____ Donation \$ _____
Address _____ Number of copies _____
City, State, Zip Code _____

Memorials

Ron Alexander
 Frank Barnet
 Brother Benno
 Edith Blaiser
 Andrea Boersma
 Roland Bond
 Bill Boster
 Agnus & Joan Boyd
 Bill Buckner
 Deacon Art & Mary Carr
 Mary Teresa Carr
 Anna Correia
 Don & Dorothea Daybell
 Phyllis H. Dierlam
 Frank S. Dolley
 Anita H. Donahue
 Dorothy M. Donahue
 Fr. Luke Dougherty
 Roseanne Dreibelbis
 Fr. Abbot Claude
 Ehringer, OSB
 Myron Eichen
 Richard Farhquar
 William & Vennita
 Flanagan
 Louise Foussat
 Joe & Ida Friend
 Mary Gerrity
 Bob Gleason
 Tom Hayward

Elizabeth Holms
 Alice Jordan
 Ben Kouns
 Richard Kurtz
 Carole Kutler
 Kay Kutler
 Bill & Louise Lakoff
 Ben E. Lewis
 Helen Lucas
 Bill & Joan Maloney
 Helene McGill
 Michael & Monty
 Nares
 Mary Nordstrom
 Bud & Blanche Ogle
 Ben Osgrove
 Pope John Paul II
 Kathryn D. Pent
 Mary Peterson
 Jane Pfau
 Ruth Hazel Pierson
 Mary Pullman
 Catherine L. Quinlan
 Dora Ramirez
 Dick & Terry Riley
 Margaret Rossini
 Ann Sauer
 Mary Shankle
 Naomi Shelton
 Bernice, Samuel &

Milton Silver
 Will Skinner
 Mike Stendahl
 Margaret Stephan
 Virginia Sylwestrzak
 Mother Teresa
 Harold Thompson
 Rosemary Tucker
 Walter Ulloa
 Fred Williamson
 Zeferino & Dancy
 Nares
 Nysewander Family
 Squirrel Family
 Marshall Button
 Anne MacDonald
 Souls in Purgatory
 Fred Hilton
 Catherine & Joe
 Martina
 Louise & George
 Casperson
 Virginia Banks
 Josefina Rodriguez
 Andrew & Horst
 Zuther
 Dorothy & Walter Jellig
 Bill Foran
 George Means
 Dale Nicholson

Gilbert Brown
 Jim Bender
 Donald Deffenbaugh
 Helen, Walt, & Beau
 McEwen
 Mary Gerrity
 John Michael Ellis
 Mary Ann Kennedy
 Gloria Orofino
 Peggy Miville
 Jim Sweeney
 Mary Jo Young
 Jane Deakin
 Agatha Johnson

IN HONOR OF

Rev. Bill Barman
 Lois Berning
 John Jarvie
 Peter Ring
 Marcus Brogan
 Harold Kutler
 Sr. Natalie Berthea

PRAY FOR

Debra Sexton
 JoAnne Shlemmer

IN GRATITUDE FOR

Four wonderful children

Needs

Gently used furniture
 Men's Hoodies, sizes XL and XXL

Diapers
 Bottled Water

Reading glasses
 Rain ponchos & blankets

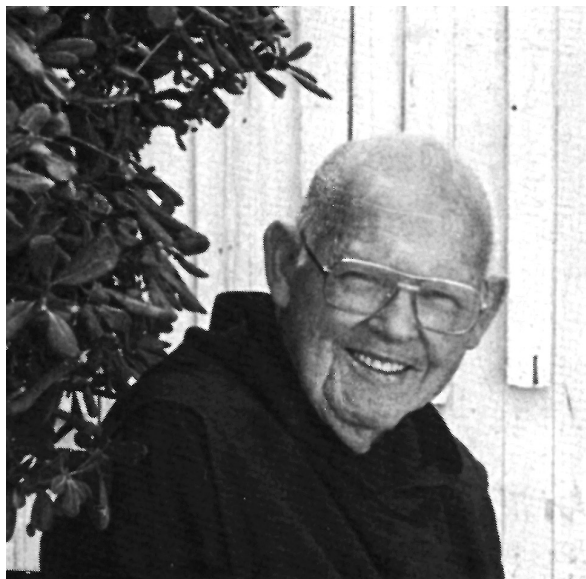
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2016 Monthly Serving Team Schedule	1 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	2 St. John The Evangelist	3 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	4 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	5 San Luis Rey Mission	6 St. Thomas More
	8 North Coast Methodist	9 Team Wyndham	10 1st MLG FCPOA	11 Oceanside Civitans	12 St. Patrick's	13 Men of Nativity
	15 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	16 Christ the King Lutheran	17 Grace Anglican	18 Carlsbad Rotary	19 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	20 Girlfriend's Care
	22 Christ Church	23 St. Mark's San Marcos	24 San Luis Rey Methodist	25 Pilgrim Creek	26 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	27 Catholic Daughters
	29 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis					

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-967-2742 **Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**
 We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.

Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049

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Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

3955 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation. If you are viewing this online you can donate by going to brotherbenno.org and click on Donations. This will allow you to make a secure donation using PayPal or a Credit Card.

Your donation is used each month at our main center and eight operational houses to provide: meals, clothing, personal hygiene items, blankets, showers, laundry facilities, bus vouchers, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, Social Security, and veterans' issues, food packs, men and women's drug and alcohol recovery program, rent and utility assistance when funds are available. We thank you for your continued support. 100% of your contribution goes directly to assist those we serve. Our modest administration costs are paid for by our Thrift Store revenues.

www.brotherbenno.org



Brother Benno's Services:

	December 2015	Our 32nd Year		December 2015	Our 32nd Year
Meals	13,993	3,833,248	Loads of laundry	27	27,235
Nights of lodging	1,148	270,242	Food packs	1,720	291,880
Articles of clothing	5,498	1,162,568	Blankets	168	39,584
Showers	1,108	213,272	Prescriptions	7	7,281
Haircuts	94	19,558	ID Vouchers	13	8,812
Bus passes	161	80,100	HUGS	1,800	911,344